GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:803
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
USE OF CEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS
A. VENKATESH NAIK;ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to use more quantity of cement for the construction of roads under the Rs.54,000 crore National Highway Development Project;

(b) if so, whether according to experts, this decision is likely to raise the cost of the project sharply;

(c) if so, whether experts have also pointed out other drawbacks of use of cement for construction of roads and highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are thinking to reconsider its decision on the basis of opinion of experts; and

(f) if not, the justification thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (MAJOR GENERAL (RETI KHANDURI, AVSM)

(a) & (b) Government have decided to adopt both cement concrete and bituminous pavements in the National Highway Development Project. Even though the initial cost of the cement concrete pavement is higher, the life cycle cost of concrete pavement has been found to be cost-effective.

(c) & (d) Some drawbacks of cement concrete pavements are non-amenability to stage construction, lack of construction equipment, absence of adequate experience and agencies for construction of concrete roads.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) In view of the long term cost advantage and need to develop experienced and agencies for concrete pavements, there is no necessity to reconsider the decision at present.